



City of Las Vegas
400 Stewart Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89101

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LAS VEGAS CITY COUNCIL

Mayor *Oscar B. Goodman*

Mayor Pro Tem *Gary Reese, Ward 3*

Councilman *Steve Wolfson, Ward 2*

Councilwoman *Lois Tarkanian, Ward 1*

Councilman *Steven D. Ross, Ward 6*

Councilman *Ricki Y. Barlow, Ward 5*

Councilman *Stavros S. Anthony, Ward 4*

City Manager *Elizabeth N. Fretwell*

Deputy City Manager *Orlando Sanchez*

Chief Officer, Community Services *Scott D. Adams*

Chief Officer, Internal Services *Mark R. Vincent*

Chief Officer, Public Safety *Karen Coyne*

THIS IS NOT A POLITICAL MAILER.
Please open to read an important message from
Mayor Oscar B. Goodman and City Manager Elizabeth N. Fretwell
on what your city government has done to manage through
these most difficult of economic times.





DEAR LAS VEGAS RESIDENT,

We're keeping a promise! This note is a follow-up to a commitment we made to update you on what your city government has done to manage your tax dollars to the benefit of all residents.

We've been listening to you as we work to keep the city financially strong, while trying to maintain as many services to you as possible. Here are some facts we want you to know:

- The city of Las Vegas was one of the first in the state to recognize a disturbing financial trend and to act. More than three years ago, we identified a potential shortfall of \$400 million over five years, unless we acted quickly.
- The city must submit a balanced budget to the state each year. To do this we've had to cut about \$115 million in expenses over the last three years. This is a 20% reduction and means 600 city positions have been eliminated. Through it, our employees are trying to do more with less, while already having one of the lowest government worker to citizen ratios in the country at only about four full-time employees per 1,000 city residents.
- We heard from you before making the tough budget decisions. We held 13 neighborhood meetings in every ward last year, and six more this year to get your input on how best to deal with our shrinking finances.
- Based on your feedback, we preserved critical functions like fire, other emergency services, streets, parks and sewers. We contracted out some programs to the private sector, eliminated some programs, cut some program hours, moved to a four-day work week, reduced staff where workloads diminished, cut overhead costs and looked for other uses of city facilities instead of just closing them. We're also looking for ways to establish partnerships and shared services with North Las Vegas, Henderson and Clark County.
- We reached new labor agreements with all four of the city's unions. Our union employees agreed to concessions that save us more than \$36 million over the next two years, representing between 3.5% and 10.8% in reductions of pay and benefits. They also agreed to reclassify nearly 600 positions to better reflect the current economy and reduce pay and benefits for new employees.
- We reorganized the management and administration of the city, cutting staff in these areas by 25%. The number of executive positions has been cut by 28%, and their average pay and benefits have dropped by 8%.
- We've reduced our budget deficit by more than 80%, but more work needs to be done. Due to a sluggish economy, we are still facing an \$8 million deficit next fiscal year.

This recession has been tough on everyone, including your city government. With so many people in our community dealing with declining revenues, you may not have heard of our efforts and actions to keep the city solvent while continuing to deliver services to you.

It's important to us that you know of our progress—and that you know we're still listening. To learn more, please visit the city's website at www.lasvegasnevada.gov/yourcity.

